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"THE LAUGHING POLICEMAN" UNFUNNY FILM FUROR!

I have not, and probably never will see "The Laughing Policeman," a new detective drama put on film by 20th Century Fox. BUT, the flap this picture is raising is a plus for the Gay community. The resulting contemporary exercise in homosexual sociometrics is providing enough laughs for those in the know that it is a story worth passing on.

Considering that the last 37 movies filmed in San Francisco have been duds, it is still amazing to see movie "businessmen?" considering the San Francisco location as a sure-fire setting to draw audiences. What with "Dirty Harry," "Ironside," "Streets of San Francisco" etc. ad nauseum, TV and movie viewers must have a wierd distorted image of Bahgdad by the Bay.

Now get a load of the background of the story. It is a Swedish mystery novel transferred from that location to San Francisco. The murderer has been changed to a homosexual who commits mass murder via mass transit. To make everything "authentic" we have throughout the film police slur after police slur against queers, fruiters, and faggots as well as blacks and Chinese.

As portrayed in this flick, the merits of the boys in blue who beat us at softball, are well documented and quite authentic for, San Francisco cops according to the 20th Century Fox press release. We quote:

"Still smarting from the brutal image of the San Francisco Policeman portrayed in some recent films, the San Francisco Police Department, and the Homicide Bureau in particular, were quick to lend their cooperation to producer-director Stuart Rosenberg when he made it known that his film would be a 'realistic portrayal' of a police investigation."

The overlong press release also

contains some gems of understanding about us mass murdering fruiters. We quote again:

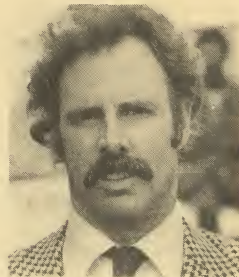
"As Stuart explained the plot of his script," (Homocide Inspector Gus) Coreris said with his customary preciseness, "and detailed the murder of the bus driver and his passengers which opens the film, and then described the previous murder, we found the killer followed the pattern of what we call a 'fruit murder.'"

"Coreris was quick to emphasize that there was no disrespect to the Gay community, but that it is the experience of homicide departments in big cities, that murders committed by homosexuals tend to be more vicious than those committed by heterosexuals.

"There is more dismemberment, more cutting and slashing, and I guess," Coreris summarized, "more blood."

So now we have the Flying Nun organizing pickets to protest this celluloid blasphemy against us defenseless homophiles who are NOT ALL MASS MURDERING FRUITERS.

Deep down, you, dear reader, really don't think this is a plus for the Gay community, now do you? But, consider it from a financial point of view. At least three Gay businesses were paid for the use of their premises to make the picture. The advertising in the picture of one establishment is very valuable. And think of all the Gay persons who were paid \$50.00 a day for extra work. A job is a job, as a famous drag entertainer is always pointing out. AND NOW, it is being rumored and vehemently being denied, that 20th Century Fox is paying for the organization of the Gay demonstrators outside their theaters. Well, if the pickets are NOT being paid then they certainly are being taken, for they deserve the



MEET BRUCE DERN — After 15 years as an actor, he finally has a big commercial success, "The Laughing Policeman", filmed here in San Francisco and stirring up much controversy. He tells exactly how he feels about the film, our local police department, and the frustrations of being "Hollywood's resident psycho," plus much more in a revealing, candid interview.

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(A Personal Interview)
SYNOPSIS OF '73

by
Donald McLean

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THE STING
THE NIGHT BEFORE
by
Montezuma

MARY-KISH-MESS at S.I.R.
by
Margret-Ann

PLUS:
A BLAZE OF GLOWING FAREWELLS
TO 1973 FROM OUR WRITERS!!

Next Deadline Wed., Jan. 2nd
Next Issue Out Wed., Jan. 9th

money and everyone else is getting paid.

As a suggestion to the publicity department of Fox, if not already in operation, demonstrations with Gay pickets in front of theaters would bring many persons out to see an otherwise lack lustre picture.

The big plus for the Gay community is, of course, the opportunity to clarify the picture's impression of Gay persons in a public forum. The most difficult thing in our movement has been to get open discussion of our issues. Any opportunity such as this picture's stupid police attacks on Gay persons, gives us opportunity to

set the record straight.

Let's leave the police to defend themselves as I'm certain they are quite capable of doing. Yet the frosting on the cake is much as reported by Don McLean in his interview with Bruce Dern.

Everyone has reported this picture is an anti-cop extravaganza. The police are made so stupid and inept as to make you expensive Police Department look as if it were a federally financed work project for half-wits and sadists.

Any statements about the picture by the S.F.P.D. can only come out as a defense of the S.F. homosexual

community. Who could ask for better public supporters.

BEARDEMPHL

GOLDEN GATE GAY LIBERATION HOUSE AND EMMAUS SAY "HATS OFF" TO THE DUCHESS

The well known columnist writing for "Tidbits by the Bay" for the BAY AREA REPORTER, also a TAVERN GUILD member is the Grand Duchess of San Francisco, Mr. H.L. Perry, a few nights ago put together and hosted the First Gay Community Service Awards night on Sunday, December 16 at California Hall.

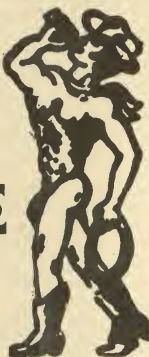
The crowd in attendance was seated largely in the first seven tables, comprising the first row. All seemed to enjoy this momentous and entertaining debut. Drinks from the bar flowed freely through the three hour tribute. The audience was peppered heavily with celebrities and well known Gays in the Bay Area. Many have made the passing years more informative, beautiful and/or more entertaining.

Duchess Perry on behalf of the GOLDEN GATE GAY LIBERATION HOUSE AND EMMAUS HOUSE, I would like to Thank you for this night of tributes. It was a beautiful affair. GOLDEN GATE GAY LIBERATION HOUSE AND EMMAUS HOUSE were glad to help. God Bless you for this display of love to the Bay Area community.

In Gay love,
R.A. Akerson
Public Relations Director
Golden Gate Gay Liberation House

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COMMUNITY NEWS

NO FUNDS NEEDED

At their December meeting, the members of the INTER-CLUB FUND decided to postpone their scheduled CELEBRITY AUCTION, since their resources are adequate to meet the expected accidents which might occur under the new reduced speed law in California.

A wealth of autographed and personal articles have been collected from top flight names in the world of entertainment and sports by Chairman Bob and these will become the nucleus of a stock of articles which will be offered in auction by the I.C.F. at some future time when it is felt that the coffers need replenishing.

It has never been the intention of the I.C.F. to ask for or conduct any activity merely for the purpose of raising money. Rather, it was felt that when a comfortable bank reserve had been collected through events and donations from concerned community members, that no further fund raising would be

attempted. Fortunately, the I.C.F., through its CASUALTY CAPERS and its program and through the Progressive Dinner, now has on hand sufficient funds to meet any reasonable and warranted request.

Late in 1974, when it is felt that additional funds are needed the I.C.F. will announce the date of its postponed CELEBRITY AUCTION, with goodies from such stars as Marlene Dietrich, Carol Channing, etc. More precious than money is blood, and the I.C.F. named Tom Wicker its chairman of an active committee to establish a newly opened BLOOD BANK, which will be available to community members who may need it in the future. Shortly, the I.C.F. will ask you for donation of your blood to stock its Blood Bank, which will become a ready source of blood for those in need. The I.C.F. is most appreciative of your financial assistance. Now it asks for your very blood, that it may help those of us when in need.

ANNOUNCING AUDITIONS FOR A MAJOR MUSICAL PRODUCTION FOR 1974!

13, January 1974 at 12:00 and 14, January 1974 at 7:00 at the VILLAGE - Because of legal difficulties prior to the finalizing of the contracts it is impossible to mention the name of this famous show, however let it suffice to say it is the musical life story of a very famous burlesque queen and Michelle is slated for the leading role of Mama Rose.

All other parts are open for auditions, including the title role, three strippers and all male parts.

There will be dancing, reading, and singing auditions. Tap is not required, but will be helpful so if you tap, bring your shoes. All materials for the reading audition will be provided. The musical audition will be conducted as follows:

For all persons interested in any singing role, either lead, supporting, or chorus, the following audition is required.

A. Prepare TWO songs.

B. Both of your selections should be from musical theatre repertoire.

This excludes many popular songs written for recordings, folk songs, and other traditional songs that were not written to be a part of a theatrical production. There could be exceptions to this requirement if you make arrangements in advance.

C. The two songs should be of contrasting tempos. One should be an "up tune" or quick tempo number - Examples: There's No Business Like Show Business, Good Times Are Here To Stay, If They Could See Me Now, etc.

The other selection should be a ballad style or slow tempo number.

D. None of the selections from the show will be heard as audition numbers.

E. You must bring a legible copy of both selections. There will be no transposing, be certain the songs are in the key you can best perform them in. There will be a pianist to help you or you may bring your own. All people must sing with piano accompaniment. The show will be performed with piano/orchestra and in order to determine your projection and ensemble awareness you must sing with piano.

F. The lyrics must be memorized. No standing over the shoulder of the pianist, no little slips of paper or cards. Be prepared to recite the lyrics of your two songs as a poem if required.

G. If call-back auditions are necessary you may be asked to sing a number that you have not prepared so that additional vocal range and flexibility can be determined.

H. If you have any questions concerning the musical audition please call 824-3838 (afternoon or evening) after 6, January 1974.

All men interested in female roles should bring photographs! - All shapes and sizes are needed for this show, especially very short men for the opening scenes. So please tell everyone you know, who enjoys being associated with San Francisco's most unique theatre experience!



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New Year's Eve at BIMBO'S is traditional in San Francisco and this year's revelry will recall past good time to many who remember The Girl in the Fishbowl, for she is back, for that one night's appearance. Who is this lovely girl who lies floating and smiling in her under water bed? It is Mike Namath. Here is the story:

On a recent Tuesday night, THE ENDUP, as part of their grand opening festivities, held a Celebrity Night.

Clutching our dog-eared autograph book, we pushed our way through a sea of soggy paper plates and faces. Alas, there wasn't a single celebrity there. We did think we saw Fatty Arbuckle and Mabel Normand but it was only Bob Ross and Henri LeLeu.

Swallowing our disappointment with a chaser of Ballentine we were suddenly struck with a vision of loveliness. With shoulders like Joan Crawford and hips like Jean Harlow, in pageboy coiffure and a clinging green sequined sheath, she swept through those double doors with the calm assurance of Loretta Young.

Ken: Mike! You never looked lovelier. Are you just another pretty face?

Mike: Of course not. I've got a pretty pair of buns, too.

K: Then you couldn't say your face is your fortune?

M: I'll not say a lot of things here. In truth, my entire body is my fortune. It all began when I won the title of Miss Teenage Michigan in my senior year in high school and was awarded a free trip to the islands.

K: The Hawaiian Islands?

M: No, the Farallones. I had to swim back! Just managed to make it to Land's

End where I was picked up.

K: A common occurrence.

M: This was an uncommon occurrence as he was a talent scout.

K: Everyone's a talent scout at Land's End. Just what was your talent?

M: Modeling, and I've been doing it ever since, when not slinging suds and sassy reaprtee at this toilet! Did you read my interview in that Brand X newspaper? I just happen to have a copy in my tote bag.

K: It says here that you haven't yet found yourself. What does that mean?

M: That means I keep pissing down my leg.

K: See a head shrinker. Probably something to do with your early toilet training. But what are you doing in modeling now?

M: Are you familiar with Chicken of the Sea?

K: Gosh, I haven't been to Treasure Island in years, but I'll bet Al Hanken could tell me about it.

M: Chicken of the Sea is a brand of tuna, silly boy, and I'm the mermaid in their TV commercials and on the labels of their cans.

K: You got a nice write up in THE

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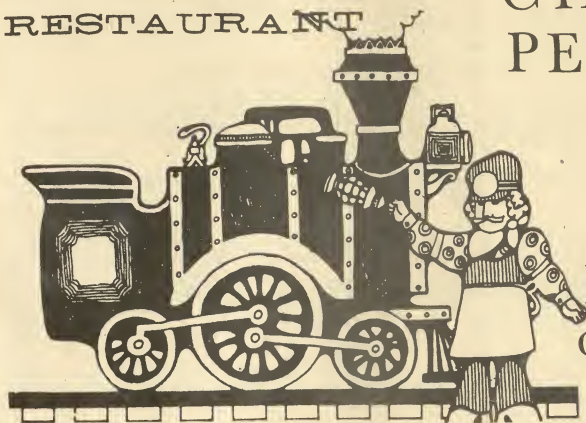
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M: No problem. I just pretend I'm standing in front of a urinal.

K: Well tell me about your coming appearance at BIMBO'S. How did it all come about?

M: It seems that Mavis had made herself a tuna salad sandwich and got a bone stuck in her throat.

K: That happens to Mavis all the time.

M: Actually, this wasn't a bone. You see, quite often over at the cannery, when no one's looking, I scribble my name and address on something handy and stick it in a can of tuna. You'd be surprised how I make out. Anyway, she got one, called me and made this wonderful offer to "restore glittering fantasy to this extravagant nightclub you've all seen in the movies."

K: I hope they warm the water. You'll turn blue by two.

M: Mavis promised me they'd fill the tank with champagne.

K: Foreign or domestic?

M: French. Chateau Recycled.

K: That should tickle your nose! We wish you and everyone a Happy New Year's Eve at BIMBO'S, Mr. Namath.

M: Just call me "Bubbles".

K: Now you're fishing for compliments.

—————
**JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS
FOR
GOLDEN GATE GAY
LIBERATION HOUSE**

January 1 — Brunch, 10:30 featuring a menu of, scrambled eggs, English muffins (current jelly), baked apple, coffee, tea or milk.

January 13 — Lecture by Victoria Starr on Raising consciousness to a Spiritual Level.

January 18 — Open Rap and Discussion on Human Sexuality by F.E. Mitchell, Program Director.

January 27 — Victoria Starr speaking on Spiritual Consciousness.

A column will be opening in the first issues in January for Gay peoples in the San Francisco area.

Every Saturday an Open Gay Rap will be guided by one of the professional and paraprofessional counselors of the Counseling For Gays Staff located at the GOLDEN GATE GAY LIBERATION HOUSE.

The Empress **CONNECTION**

A FAREWELL MESSAGE

We, Maxine, Empress De San Francisco, requests an audience to witness and welcome my successor on that day, 5, January 1974, at the California Hall, with open hearts, by giving her the love and understanding that you have given me.

This has been a beautiful fun-filled, unforgettable year, a memory that will linger and I will cherish forever.

It was a great pleasure to have been your Empress De San Francisco, VIII for we have enjoyed representing you in good status and with dignity, uphold the Crown of Empresses.

To my successor, my best and love goes with you.

To my beloved Emperor II, Russ I bid you farewell.

Our love to all

Maxine,

Empress de San Francisco VIII

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MEET BRUCE DERN

BY
DONALD
MCLEAN



Poor Bruce Dern!! He's been a steadily working actor since 1958, usually playing psychotic wierdos who came to a gruesome death long before the end of the film. In 26 films, he's only survived to the last reel in one. And nobody knows his name! Until recently, he's been one of the vast group of supporting actors whose face is instantly recognizable to an audience but whose name is blithely skipped over in the credits. Remember the hillbilly husband of the pregnant contestant in "They Shoot Horses, Don't

They?" The boyfriend in the greenhouse in the first five minutes of "Hush, Hush, Sweet Charlotte" who got his head chopped off? The leader of the bike gang in "The Wild Angels"? Well, that is Bruce Dern. Up to now, his biggest claim to fame was being the guy who shot John Wayne in "Cowboys". Last year, he finally got his name above the film title in two major movies, "Silent Running" and "The King of Marvin Gardens," both of which did enough business to pay the projectionist's salary and that was about it. Now, he's the co-star of a new film,

"The Laughing Policeman," and with 1. first big commercial film he's engaged in personal attacks and raging controversy.

He's sitting wearily in his suite at the St. Francis on a promo tour for "The Laughing Policeman." It's been a long day of interviews, and the benefit screening that night has yet to be gotten through complete with pickets and demonstrations. He knows it and concludes our interview by saying, "Excuse me, but I have to go to the demonstration now." He's wearing a sports shirt, baggy brown slacks and track shoes with no socks. At 37 years of age, his hobby is road-running (a couple miles every day) and has a sore Achilles tendon which has swollen so that his track shoes are the only comfortable things to wear. He tries very hard to communicate sincerely as he talks with you, trying to relate on a one to one level despite phone interruptions and drink mixing, potato chip passing, etc. Asked how he personally feels about "Laughing Policeman," he says with a certain desperation, "I think it's the most commercial film I've been in. And I need a hit!"

The film has been attacked because of its depiction of the Gay lifestyle, the killer being a psychotic closet queen and the cop Dern plays calling homosexuals "fruiters" and treating them as definite second-class citizens. The film was made here in San Francisco with the cooperation of the police department using actual members of the Homicide Division and TAC Squad. Here's what Bruce Dern has to say about the film and our local police department: "Stuart (Rosenberg, the producer) doesn't like cops. He wanted to show how really terrifying TAC Squads are. These guys are Marines!... I'd never really had an opinion very good about policemen before this picture. Plainclothes guys terrify me. I think of policemen in uniforms... I think the reason the police cooperated was the police department was tired of the 'Dirty Harry, syndrome, the super cop theory. In L.A., we have storm troopers... And highway patrolmen, they're from another planet. They're animals... I think the police department is shocked at the reaction of the Gay community, because they didn't think of it from the Gay viewpoint... Sheriff Hongisto is an extremely hip guy and a defender of the Gay community.... Charlie Ellis feels that

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Bruce Dern and Walter Matthau in *"The Laughing Policeman"*, an authentic depiction of the San Francisco Homicide Squad... or is it? maybe they were a little rough on the Gay community... There are 17 homicide detectives in this city, and 90 homicides last year in San Francisco... These 17 guys have the grimmest job imaginable. One thing this picture tries to point out. Inevitably in a homicide case, somebody comes out of left field to solve the case by giving information... There are 2 homicide cops in this city that are almost right on to the character I play. They're showmen... In the movie, they're not good or bad cops, they're just guys... There's every kind of attitude in those 17 guys, from the very top to the very bottom... I call 'em 'fruiters' because there's a certain homicide detective here who calls 'em 'fruiters'... (During shooting, Dern went out on cases with the detectives) I can handle looking at the corpse. What I can't handle is the living relatives... These guys have to be emotionally void. The minute they become emotionally involved, they're fucked!... Paul Bentley, who owns THE RAMROD, was really instrumental in getting the film done. His friends worked in the film and he really helped us." While obviously no defender of the police department, Mr. Dern does feel the film gives an accurate portrayal of police and says that Stuart Rosenberg wanted to show cops as they really are and was "tired of cops being boy scouts", the stereotype image for years in films. Of his own role, he says, "I don't think the guy's offensive, though he does offensive things." Such things as pushing the guy's head in the toilet bowl he feels is "dramatic license," not necessarily taken from actual observations. And he feels that by putting his characterization on

film, audiences across the country will say, "Get rid of Dern!... Get that attitude out of the police force!!" He sees the film more as an authentic depiction of the police department's attitudes and methods than a putdown on minorities.

Mr. Dern has very definite opinions about Hollywood and directors. His new film is the role of Tom in *"The Great Gatsby"*, to be released next March. He calls it "the greatest role I've ever played" and then talks about its director, Jack Clayton. Mr. Clayton has made four movies in the past 17 years but is considered a genius in Hollywood and is much sought after. "I realized he cannot talk to an actor, can't communicate." His good friend Jack Nicholson was in Europe doing a film for Antonioni and had the same problem with that much heralded director, and again with Roman Polanski. "The European director looks at an actor in a totally different way... In the European film, the actor serves a purpose in the total scope of the film; in the American film, the actor IS the film!... I agree that film is a director's medium... up to a point. But when that camera starts, the actor is alone... He has

to come across with a dimensional human being that the audience can identify with. They don't have to like him, just identify with him... I call it the millenium medium... A director can't save a film. You're going to tell me Arthur Hiller saved *'Love Story'*?... There are three sets of directors: The 'Can't Miss', such as Mike Nichols, the 'Avant Garde', such as Coppola and Bogdanovich who proved that genre films can be commercial, and the good technicians, such as Arthur Penn and Stuart Rosenberg. This is the toughest group to be in. When given a good script, they make a really good film; with a bad script, they make a living."

As an actor, he feels the two saddest things to him are— "Everybody thinks you can do everything. You're bankable. And the roles that they gear you to play are not necessarily the ones you want. They do not extend your abilities." After Being Hollywood's resident psycho actor for years, you can understand his point. He cites Clint Eastwood ("who's not a very good actor") as a case in point, a guy who's got it made, can do anything he wants artistically, so what does he do?

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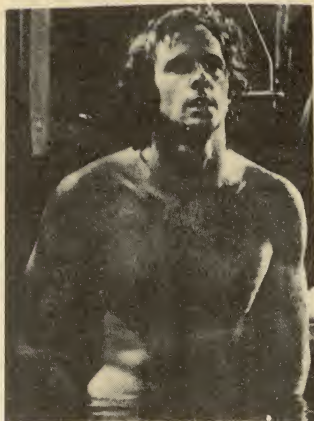
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MEET BRUCE DERN

"Magnum Force". "The whole concept of 'Silent Running' is pure genius!... The biggest problem was Universal. They just don't know how to distribute a film, especially one they don't understand... I didn't think 'Easy Rider' was a good film. I thought 'Wild Angels' was a better bike film, but the timing was right for 'Easy Rider'. The public was ready... 'King of Marvin Gardens' had the greatest ensemble acting you'll ever see in an American film. It was the most ambitious picture I'd been in." But somehow, throughout his career, Mr. Dern never seems to 'get the girl' in his films. "I'm in love with (the idea of) playing the fuck part, just once. I'll even take Thelma Ritter!"

Born in Illinois of a socially prominent family, his father, a law partner of the late Adlai Stevenson and his great-uncle being poet/playwright Archibald MacLeish, Dern's interest in the theatre started in college at the University of Pennsylvania, disturbing the more conservative members of his family no end. He quit the university when the track team coach ordered him to shave off the sideburns he'd grown for a play.



Bruce Dern in "Silent Running," his first star billing.

His father, a member of the Board of Trustees, sided completely with the coach. Years later, Mr. Dern played such a coach in "Drive, He Said". In 1959, he went to New York, became a member of Actors Studio (where he still remains as both student and teacher), played on Broadway in "Orpheus Descending" and

"Sweet Bird of Youth," then started in TV and eventually made it to Hollywood, playing "assorted sickies". With "Laughing Policeman", Bruce Dern says, "From now on it's all white horse, white hat stuff for me... This is the beginning of a change."

At least, that's what he hopes. When told of the controversy his new film has stirred up, he smiles ruefully, shakes his head and says, "Jesus, I'm finally becoming a movie star and they're marching on me already!!" Poor Bruce Dern.

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a film view

BY MONTEZUMA

THE STING

By far the best of the crop of Xmas flicks thus screened, this film is one of sheer entertainment starring Robert Redford and Paul Newman (together again!).

The actions takes place in the mid-30's and traces the set-up and completion of a con-game racket on big



Paul Newman and Robert Redford team up again in "The Sting."

time racketeer, Robert Shaw. There is much to recommend in this film for those who can dig "escapist" Hollywood-type fun.

Although Redford tends to dominate the film, Newman also gives a great performance — especially in his poker game with Shaw aboard the 20th Century Limited. Redford is getting a little too old for these "kid" roles but is still

believable in his characterization.

Assisting the two leads are sterling performances by Robert Shaw and Eileen Rennan (a long way from "Little Mary Sunshine" in this role). The ending is one of those "surprise" twists that are great when they work — and it does in "Sting." This is a definite must for your Xmas movie list.

THE LAUGHING POLICEMAN

The film stirring up the most brou-haha in the Gay community is a rather badly made film titled "The Laughing Policeman". Personally I couldn't get myself worked up to the frenzied protest over this film. I'm curious as to how many of the people picketing this film have actually seen it or are on the bandwagon because they are sheep following a radical leader.

The film just isn't very good and the only thing these protesters are accomplishing is getting curious publicity for people to plunk down their money to see just what all the shouting is about. I don't believe the rumor that 20th Century Fox is paying to have this protest done with so much hoopla.

As for "downgrading" the Gay community, I think this film can offend just about any minority group with special note to Blacks and Chinese as well as Gays. The police department is the one who comes off the worse when viewed by any liberal-minded viewer. The fact that the killer in the film is shown as a homosexual visiting RITCH ST. (and believe me unless you know what the outside of RITCH ST. looks like, you don't really know where he is or what is



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going on inside); The RAMROD, and picking up a trick at the FROLIC ROOM — all this action is in mid-afternoon showing much action in the bars; seems to have little bearing on the fact that he is also a killer. If the reason for his killing all these people were explained and a connection could be made, then maybe the Gay lib people could have something to scream about, but as it stands the film offers no explanation at all on why this person kills. My contention is that a person's sexual habits don't make him a killer, whether he is a homosexual or a heterosexual. How many films have shown hetero psychotic killers? The reason for this man killing his female wife two years prior is never explained either.

Walter Mattheau yawns thru most of his role — unlaughing throughout. His police character seems to accept the changing morality to today whereas Bruce Dern as his partner represents the type of cop that too many feel are in the majority — the smart-ass, foul mouth, brutal cop.

As I said previously, the film just isn't very good and I don't recommend it — not because of the way the Gay world is treated because I think it's treated realistically for that portion that these policemen have to deal with — but the plot is sloppy and the conclusion leaves you wondering why you bothered at all.

There are some fast glimpses of several local celebrities including Jae Stevens, Busty O'Shea, Terry Taylor, and John Cadye, so if you must go at least you can see some friends.

THE PORNO CORNER

The best porno flick I've seen all year is currently at the NOB HILL, it's Arch Brown's "The Night Before." In all the ads on the film there are various degrees of raves, in this case I think they are warranted. The film combines the best aspects of a "Bijou" with the realism of a "Back Row" and a touch of Fellini "8½"-type fantasy to bring this film up from the "fuck" class to pronographic art. Yes, there are graphic sex scenes, but they are extremely well-edited — the editing of this film surpasses any of this type I've forced myself to sit thru before — you don't have to sit thru 15 minutes of sucking/fucking with only heavy breathing on film. It's there and while it dwells on the sex acts enough to be explicit, it never is boring or tedious.

The film stars a young newcomer,

Coke Hennessey, and takes him from reality to dream-fantasy and back. His trip is your trip and the filmmakers, especially Mr. Brown, insure you one-hell-of-a-ride. To outline the plot wouldn't mean much as although there is one it is slight and not as important as the way the film happens. It starts normally enough but then watch out. The fantasy sequences are wonderfully done without it becoming so far out and bizarre that you lose that touch of reality. If this is your trip, then "The Night Before" will be the one you want to catch.

Till next issue... start the new year off right, start anew...

Luv...


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by margret ann

AN UNFEELING X-MAS!

The annual S.I.R. Christmas offering could not have been given a more appropriate title "Mary Kish Mess." The revue of sorts was not only disappointing,

but in simpler terms was in extremely bad taste. The holiday season is, by tradition, a time for love and peace and for the exchange of gifts. The S.I.R. Christmas production gave nothing and took a great

deal of control on the part of this reviewer to remain to its conclusion.

The show, for all intent and purpose, was conceived and directed by Kissy Diki. He did manage to put together three good production numbers and not much more. "March Of The Wooden Soldiers," "Dance Of The Sugar Plum Fairy" (featuring Maxine) and "Oh Do It Again" (with Miss Gay San Francisco Toni as the principal) were excellent. These show stoppers in addition to good individual efforts by John Carlyle and Lee Garland are the sum total worth mentioning. The remainder of the material was dull, unexciting and forgettable.

The quote, unquote star and central character of the production was Kish. Kish, who obviously fancies himself as a comedian, singer and personality, is anything but a performer. Two and a half hours of poor Tallulah Bankhead imitations, compounded by the persistent use of plastic and lollie pop genital shaped devices is not exactly my idea of good clean fun. I should hope that Gay theatre has progressed beyond the point of such vulgar practices.

The sponsor S.I.R. and its Board of Directors saw fit in 1972 to eliminate the production committee from its rank and file. However, I always find it amusing that when S.I.R. is in financial difficulty, which is more often than not lately, where do they turn but to productions, naturally, for help. If "Mary Kish Mess" is the latest example of the new direction of S.I.R. then maybe a lesson can be learned by studying PRIDE and M.C.C. At least both of these organizations have shown on back to back occasions the good taste and the esprit de corps within the Gay community by presenting two superb benefit productions, which is more than can be said about S.I.R.!

Once again I find another year on its way into the past. May I at this time take a few moments to thank all the readers, entertainers and performers who have made this column possible for the past three years. May 1974 be bigger and better than ever... Happy Holidays...

M.A.



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Show News



by Donald McLean

A SYNOPSIS OF '73

Looking back over the 1973 entertainment scene in San Francisco, it will certainly have to rank as one of the fullest years we've seen yet. Pantomime shows have virtually disappeared (for

which many of you will mutter a heartfelt "Thank God!!!"), but only in San Francisco. Elsewhere around the country they're thriving, doing material we saw five years ago and at salaries that make local performers gasp. Live is the byword and we've seen almost all of our local mime entertainers at least try to go live in '73. Terry Taylor went live at the HAVOC HOUSE, Busty O'Shea tried it at THE OLD NEW STAND with a sound system that made you long for a clear record (that's why he closed the show after one night), Carol Lynn defied the sound barrier with "Love Story," Pat Montclair continued trilling at FINOCCHIO'S, Lori Shannon galloped into CABARET for 12 weeks with a voice that could best be described as "early Cab Calloway," Charles Pierce started belting "Broadway Baby" with lots of patter in between, and on and on the list goes. Many of them proved that showmanship and clever patter could overcome all obstacles, even voices that would make Mitch Miller blanch. And a few even proved to have quite respectable dulcet tones. Now word comes that Pat Montclair, Terry Taylor, Bryan Marshall and Chuck McAllister are leaving the first



Brandy Lee brought excitement to the CABARET this year.

of the year to go to Boston to open in a pantomime show and plan to remain indefinitely. Hummm. The biggest advantages to working mime is that tapes cost much less than a band; the performer clears more money, the club owner gets a fuller show (cast wise) for what a good singer and pianist would cost him per night. Add drums and a bass, maybe even a supporting act, and you're talking a lot of money to lay out, kiddo. But, San Francisco audiences want live shows only, it seems, which is why we're down to two Gay showbars, CABARET and GOLD STREET, plus the FROLIC ROOM (which fired the cast for Christmas again and now has a Hawaiian revue appearing) for mime acts.

You have to give credit to the FROLIC ROOM. Somehow it manages to endure despite high drink prices, a rotten show format and some of the worst amateur acts seen in the Western Hemisphere. Yet every so often a bright glimmer appears, a talented mime queen who would have been snapped up four years back and put into a show. Now there's no shows to put a good act in, so they continue doing "guest spots" until the cows come home and hope that maybe someday... Many known performers have tried desperately to pump life into the FROLIC ROOM show, with Busty O'Shea, Tommy Almon (who finally gave up and left town), Ty Lindstrom, Carol Lynn and others all trying to keep a level of professionalism going with a succession of go-go boys. Early in the year, Big Jimmy tried the same thing with the 181 CLUB and had it going for a while, but that petered out due to location when put in competition with the FROLIC (same owner of both clubs). Fortunately, the FROLIC ROOM has the Hilton Hotel tourists who wander in off the street. With reasonable bar

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THE MIDNIGHT SNOOP

drink prices (people will not spend \$1.50 for a drink in the Tenderloin!), a director who cares and a show format instead of an endless marathon, the FROLIC ROOM could still become THE pantomime showbar in our city. Terry Taylor opened a show next door at JACKIE D'S for a brief five weeks that did very well at first, then ran into bad management problems. And funnily enough, when that show was going, business was better right next door at the FROLIC too, because people could run between the two and see the best of

both. Obviously, there is a certain percentage of show audiences that enjoy a good, original mime show still!



"Dames At Sea" was one of three productions this year.

Photo by Eddie Van

CABARET has introduced many new, exciting performers to San Francisco in '73 and hopefully will continue to bring many more. Stevens and Miller, both former mime performers of the old FANTASY days, have put together a live comedy revue and done very well touring with it. Brandy Lee shook up the city with her particular brand of excitement, and Craig Russell certainly was the brightest new star in the '73 firmament. Michael Greer makes periodic return visits to our city and always does very well and many of us were delighted to see a male (as such) entertainer flash across the scene, namely Michael Owen. One of the biggest advantages at CABARET is a built-in audience from the dance bar upstairs, though that does not insure a performer's success if the performer does not appeal to the "head" set. Also, CABARET has a circuit to keep performers employed if they wish,

working in L.A. and now Boston as well. The biggest disadvantage is the showroom itself, a three-sided large room great for a big, fast-moving show but very difficult for a solo performer to play all sides or maintain an intimate atmosphere.

GOLD STREET has given us the "name" individual performer, such as George Buchanan, Michael Greer, Hadda Brooks, and of course, Charles Pierce, who manages to keep his audiences coming back time and time again for more. With a 90 seat capacity, GOLD STREET must depend upon a \$2.00 door charge to carry the bulk of a performer's salary, and such names as Cass Daley and Ann Weldon (backed by a 7 piece orchestra) had trouble making salary demands unless jammed to capacity every performance. Mr. Pierce alone seems to be money in the bank for this room, having appeared for almost 20 weeks this year alone. But, GOLD STREET no longer will be a showroom after La Pierce finishes this next brief booking, so hello dancebar, so long showbar!

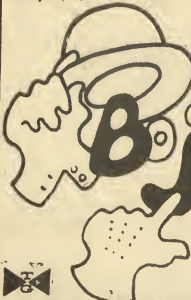


John Rothermel will perform New Year's Eve only at BIMBO'S.

Gay theatre, which zoomed into prominence in '72, continued with three shows in '73, "The Boy Friend," "Plaza Suite," and "Dames at Sea." None of them generated the excitement of "Mame" or "Dolly" last year with audiences, deservedly so. At best it could be described as a season of pleasant community theatre, though 1973 did see Faye emerge as the First Lady of Gay Theatre, scoring solidly in 2 of the 3 shows and numerous other one-night-only benefit appearances, plus "Mame" last year. Michelle took a vacation this year, but now promises to re-appear in '74 as Mama Rose in "Gypsy" in April, and YONKERS PRODUCTION COMPANY

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will give us "Little Me" in May of '74. With many fine individual performances in all three shows, the '73 season was certainly less than thrilling overall. At least, "Gypsy" and "Little Me" sound interesting for next season, but the ultimate decision will rest in the directors hands.

We had the Carol Channing "Look-A-Like" night, certainly a major highlight of the year, several good benefit shows with all-star casts, FINOCCHIO'S got it together with some new production numbers and started courting the Gay audiences more, pianists/organists continue to thrive in the smaller clubs, Gay Theatre continues to move steadily ahead, but for nightclub performers, it's a dismal city. Almost all acts are booked in as part of a tour for limited engagements, with very little work for performers living in the city and wishing to remain here. "Tour" is the word for '73 and, I suspect, for '74 as well.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

BIMBO'S — Mavis' New Year's Party featuring "The John Rothenmel Revue" — \$10 per person in advance, \$12.50 at door.

CABARET — Stevens & Miller & Friends — 3 shows — Reservations suggested.

GOLD STREET — Charles Pierce at 9 and 11 — \$3.00 door charge — Reservations needed.

VENETIAN ROOM — The Mills Bros. — full course dinner, dancing, favors — \$40 per person — Reservations essential.

A.C.T. — "Taming of the Shrew" — Geary Theater — 8:30 curtain.

MARINES MEMORIAL — "Oh Coward!" — 8:30 curtain.

*P.S. — CRISTAL ROOM — Full dinner, dancing and all the booze you can drink — \$25 per person — limited capacity, — reservations essential — John Gooch at the piano bar.

And as 1973 sinks slowly into the past, I stand with my ration book in hand and one battered copy of "Brother Can You Spare A Dime" awaiting what new surprises 1974 may have in store for us.

"So long for a while, that's all the songs...."



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15 LANSLOWNE
BOSTON

General Happenings

Tidbits

by the Bay



WARM BELT

Did you know that Upper Market is now called the Silver Strip? There is also a new Upper Market Merchants Assn., which is open to both sides of the fence.

The NAKED GRAPE has a very home-like Xmas decor and I wouldn't mind Gary in my stocking!! What a hunk. The GRAPE will have a champagne buffet New Year's Eve at 12 PM.

If the chef at TIFFINY'S looks familiar, it's Miss Gayzette. Remember her? They have a new coffee trip and the new glasses are great. Thank you, Kay, for the tickets to the Community Awards.

The WATERGATE WEST had their grand opening with that madcap Mavis as M.C. They have opened their Winchester Room for dinners. You have got to see their ceiling! It looks like it was done by

the Spider in Gordo's comic strip. However, it was done by Frank their manager. Great job.

Ron (THE PENDULUM), you know the Ice Man will soon be in the fruit business. I mean the selling of such to the bars.

The WATERHOLE NO. 3 has a new box, The Shop Foreman. Check it out.

Al of the DOG PATCH has really given the place a face lift.

DOWNTOWN

There will be a Royal Hangover Party at S.I.R. Tues., Jan. 1, 1974, hosted by Empress Maxine, Emperor Russ and the Grand Duchess Perry. Starting at 2 PM. The highlight of the afternoon will be the choice of the Royal Baby, who will be presented with three royal gifts. You must wear a diaper to enter, so get out

your old sheets and let's have a ball.

The FROLIC ROOM has a new show, Orlando and His Hawaiian Playboys. Their wardrobe is fantastic and the drags are beautiful (I hate you all) and you'll flip when you see Orlando do his shell dance!!

PETRI'S CABOARA'S, on Calif. St., is a great place for lunch. The food is quite good and their head is a trip if you are a movie buff. Petri is having a party for Irene (it's her birthday again) and Perry (me) to welcome the Grand Duchess to her staff Friday, Jan. 11, starting at 5 PM to who knows when.

The WINDJAMMER decor! Heaven! Not to overlook the bartender.

CHINESE CHECKERS

John Carlyle can now be seen at the Castro Cafe, as can Randy Johnson who is en route to the MIND SHAFT.

Candy, formerly of the Waldorf in L.A., is now at the TURF CLUB on beautiful downtown 6th St.

Bruce of the Q.T. is now at the LITTLE BIT MORE.

Paul (the chef from the SAUSALITO INN) is the new chef at the WATERGATE WEST via the Spinnaker.

Yours truly (of Perry's Antiques) can

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POLK ALONG LARKIN

The hosts of the new bar, the HORNY OWL, will be Terry and Glenn (Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln). It's the old Charlie's Dog House at 741 Larkin St. They will have their grand opening Jan. 6th (after the ball) at 6 AM, yes AM, with yours truly as hostess. That's if I'm still alive. Such a night this is going to be.

Bob Kerns did a disappearing act behind the bar at the WILD GOOSE. He fell through the trapdoor. Hope your foot is better soon, love.

AROUND TOWN

Did you know the Emperor II and the Grand Duchess are hung? In the dining room of BRADLEY'S, that is.

There is a lot of rumble about a Gay Community Chest. There is also a new Gay Bartenders Union in the making.

Welcome to THE AMBUSH. You have to see their mad 50's poster of Steve Reeves. They also have a nice shop with leather goodies and some wild belt buckles.

Thanks Russ for a fun evening (the Farewell to Maxine) at BIG TOWN. Dottie Ivory's trio was heaven and I had

the pleasure of meeting Honey Carolina, the Empress of L.A., a very nice person. Welcome to S.F. You should see BIG TOWN'S Xmas decor. Great!

The new gimmick at FE-BE'S is cash instead of leather every 4th Tuesday. A Tip of the Brim to Nick for buying the two empty boxes left over from the auction at \$2.50 each. We raised over \$800 for two of our community that were burned out.

The only way we lost at the softball game was in the score. It has to be one of the greatest P.R. things yet. Even the police P.R. man wrote a great article about it. All favorable!! Irene, your gang was heaven and the card tricks ("Lick Lilly Law", "God Save the Queens," etc.) were something else, as were the cheer leaders.

Farewell to Terry Taylor and Bryan Marshall. We'll miss you. As you know, they are leaving for a show in Boston. Break a leg, kids!

Thanks to S.I.R. and EMMAUS HOUSE for all your help in the Community Awards and to J.C., Kimo (I spelled it right), Hector, Foxie, Larry and Lon. Without your help it could not have happened. To Lee Raymond, Lee

Garland, Momi Starr, Gary Poole Dancers, Terry of Hollywood and all those who helped in the fashion show, thanks for making it the fun night it was. Lots of love to you all. It's people like you that make our being worthwhile. Ray Rule, you're a doll!!

THE OLD STAND, did and closed. Mr. Conroy, what next?

May the New Year bring you all the joy you can handle, much prosperity and love!!

Be good to each other
"30 Kiddies"

Perry

My warmest wishes to each and everyone

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Emperor Russ II
and

Grand Duchess Perry I

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Southern Scandals

EMPEROR MARGUS I

**A NEW BIKE CLUB FOR
MONTEREY PENINSULA**

The FORBIDDEN CITY Restaurant in Monterey was the scene of an open house function to introduce Northern California to the newest bike club in the country, that being the MONTEREY DONS M/C. With six bikes out of the nine charter members and more applicants waiting to gain entry, the Cypress Court, representatives from San Francisco bike clubs, Emperor II Russ and members of his Royal Court, the new club made its debut with a champagne buffet and christened two bikes. The officers of the club as it now stands are President, Robin R., Secretary-Treasurer Denny B., and Keeper of the Keys, Delta Dawn. Not since the RAINBOW M/C of San Francisco made its debut over a year ago has a new bike club been formed in this part of California. The BOOT CAMP will host a welcome aboard party for the MONTEREY DONS M/C on Tuesday, January 16, 1974, beginning at 9:00 PM with a champagne buffet and invites to all bike clubs in Northern and Southern California and all interested persons. Congratulations to the DONS, and hope to see you all in attendance to welcome this new club to the wonderful world of bikes.

FAREWELL DINNER FOR EMPRESS VIII MAXINE

The dining room of BIG TOWN was packed with glittering personalities of Our Community to pay tribute to our beloved Empress Maxine (my ex-wife) last Monday Night under the auspices of Emperor II, Russ. A sumptuous dinner was served by the snappy staff of waiters under the direction of the Polish Prince Chef Schatzi (Chef of the Year/Community Awards) and wines and toasts abounded as Gay people of all groups gathered to raise their glasses in a fond farewell to Maxine. HIM Honey

Carolina, Empress IV de Los Angeles flew in for the occasion as early as the preceding Friday and was squired about town by the dashing Chuck Smith of BIG TOWN. A great evening of fun with dancing afterward and bar-hopping all over town. Congratulations to the staff of BIG TOWN and members of Emperor Russ' Court for a job well done.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MARC-US

Remember Gene Dixon formerly of the SAN FRANCISCANS and CYCLE RUNNERS, the creator of those beautiful photos of wire hanging in the MISTAKE, BOOT CAMP, 527 CLUB and other bars? Well my spies in the Islands inform me that Gene was married at the HOUSE OF CHARLES in Honolulu recently as was Bob Azar former bartender at the RAMROD... I'm sure you've heard about the big wedding at the ENDUP between Closet Ball Queen Tacky Tacky Ruth and Mr. Cowboy Jess Molina the end of January — will Tacky be in drag or not? and we hope she's studying her Spanish book diligently... Hear the COUNTRY CLUB is for sale and going to the highest bidder, none other than Mark, the head waiter there... Can you imagine spending Xmas and New Years at the tubs? Nevertheless, RITCH STREET HEALTH CLUB had a smashing Xmas Day get-together and are planning a huge blast on New Year's Eve starting at 4 PM, sounds like fun doesn't it?... Congrats to Jim Ellison who won the leather jacket at BOOT CAMP'S Black Leather Christmas Party last week... Lots of interesting (and groovy) candidates lining up for the Mr. Gay San Francisco Contest at California Hall on January 26th... The GAY FREEDOM DAY PARADE this year will be on June 30th and lots of fund-raising activities scheduled between now and then to put on the biggest and best Gay parade yet with a healthy assist from Steve Ginsburg, last year's chairman... Sorry to learn that Doug MacDonald has resigned as Chairperson of OPERATION CONCERN — he had some dynamic plans for that worthwhile group, but because of vicious shit-disturbers has elected to divest himself of all the hassle and I can't say I blame him. I mean, who can bear to listen to the petty jealousies from do-nothings?... Hope you're all getting ready for the Coronation of Empress IX at California Hall on January 5th and I imagine the four Empress candidates are

SOUTHERN SCANDALS

just about sitting on needles and pins by now...

Denny and Byron, those mad-cap, hard-working, fun-loving guys are literally all over town with the delightful Momi Starr and Kissy Diki just getting into EVERYTHING... Did you see Magnolia Thunderpussy at the PENDULUM'S Xmas Party attired in a Napoleon Bonaparte costume, but acting very much like Josephine... my, my... DICK'S on Castro is sold to Don Jaggard formerly of the SPEAKEASY and YACHT CLUB and plans are underway to make it into a very French gourmet club... The MIND SHAFT opened last Thursday and you have to see it to believe it — WOW! is the only thing I can say... My hat off to Bill Beardemphl for his finest journalistic effort in the last issue of B.A.R. — right on, Bill!... and what about those five new bars opening (already or soon) on Polk Street and vicinity ... Remember the Aquarius Parade on Folsom some three years ago, put together by Granddaddy Henri? My spies tell me another in the same genre is being thought about for 1974... Memo to Amazon Lil of the ENDUP — whatever happened to those plans for a Mardi Gras function South of Market?... Du-Da, Du-Da, really celebrating Christmas the other night with a certain United Air Lines type... Catch that super discojockey, Steve, at the ENDUP and that divine dance floor — hope you all had a good Christmas.

I would like to thank every one who voted for me at the recent Gay Community Awards at California Hall. I'm proud to say that I am on the staff of the award-winning BAY AREA REPORTER. Thank you all for helping me write this column — thanks to my editors Bob Ross and Paul Bentley for allowing me to expound and my thanks to Donald McLean who inspired me and also to Cecil Knockherwurst Weatherbee who helped me to carry on even in the darkest hours with his satiric but loving jibes. Thank you everyone for making 1973 one of the most beautiful for me. I shall try to live up to the high honors you have given me. Keep reading and above all, have the Happiest New Year in 1974, love yourself and your Gay brothers and sisters, and remember, I DO love you all.

Mister Marcus

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Out of Town Events

THIS-A & THAT-A

by Lou Greene

(Due to illness this column
has been written by Gene)
PENINSULA SHOWS

December 4th and 6th at THE HARBOR saw a disaster of a show, put on by Alfie. Reports have it that the show came off badly due to lack of co-operation between management and Alfie. I don't know if Bob Johnson was discouraged when he saw the rehearsals or what happened. At any rate it turned out badly for THE HARBOR. Bar owners and managers should try to work a little closer with the show producers and his staff because as everyone knows the Peninsula show bars have a lot to offer in entertainment when they get together.

December 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th at THE CAMEO CLUB CABARET held one of the most imaginative Christmas shows, ever. Monty and Gabby got together and came up with a funny and yet heart warming show. Starring were Gabby, Diana, Alfie, and Mr. Peninsula, Jess. You must check out the latest in costumes by Gabby, deluxe flower hat complete with a shawl that only Gabby could wear and get away with. An outstanding impression was left on my mind with the show and Gabby's new costuming.

The Probe show, THE SAVOY'S 3rd annual was held December 16th. The girls at THE SAVOY do this every year to help raise money, food for the needy in the area. Monies raised will go to buy more food, some clothing and shoes, as well as some \$300.00 worth of canned-food donated at the door. The Show starred Sandi and Terry Taylor. Most of the numbers were old. BUT, Sandi and Terry added that bit of humor to them that makes old numbers come alive, really a good show.

AROUND THE PENINSULA

THE GARDEN in Palo Alto, complete with their new decor, will be offering a New Year's Eve Party on the 31st, free Buffet and the works. They also now have a Cabaret License, and offer dancing. Mr. Peninsula, Jess, along with the Peninsula Guild is sponsoring a physci contest with three categories. Over 40, between 30 and 40 and under 30. Any

attire may be worn, and trophies will be in the offering. This happens at the GARDEN on January 13 at 8 PM.

Watch for the re-opening of the KONA-KAI, now under new ownership, sometime in January. Be sure to check out their Sunday brunches when in the area. The KONA KAI will be co-hosting for the Portland crowd, in January al along with the SAVOY and THE CAMEO CLUB CABARET.

THE DRIFTWOOD LOUNGE, QUEEN'S PALACE, ALOHA CLUB, CHANDELIER in Hayward all are having New Year's Eve Parties, some with shows, some with live Music.

THE HARBOR in San Jose now has a complete new sound system with Vibrasonic Speakers, and a live disc-jockey, who is a professional disc-jockey from one of the local radio stations.

IT is with sadness that I announce that THE CHANCES R in Hayward and THE HIVE in Redwood City are permanently closed Gay bars.

EAST BAY

Be sure to check out the New Year's Eve Parties in the offering at your local favorite tavern. THE DRIFTWOOD, CHANDELIER, QUEEN'S PALACE, and ALOHA CLUB in Hayward; GRANDMA'S HOUSE, BERRY'S, HANS, LANCERS and the WAIKIKI in Oakland, CAMP GROUNDS and WHITE HORSE in Berkeley all will be offering lively New Year's Eve Parties, some with live shows, all with plenty of food and booze. So enjoy seeing the old go out and ring in the new at your favorite East Bay Tavern. I also think that a tip of the hat should go to all the East Bay bars, since they all decided to get together. You can do a lot if and when you all decided to work together, and you have proved it.



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